Import of Potassium Penicillin-G First Crystals

4804. SHRI DHARAMPAL SINGH MALIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are allowing the import of Potassium Penicillin G First Crystals to only those units who lift unequal quantity of indigenous Potassium Pencillin G First Crystals from public sector units against cash payment at three times the rate of the international price;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken to encourage the small scale units engaged in this business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c). As per the existing policy for the year, 1991-92, import of Penicillin-G is allowed to organised as well as small scale sector units in the ratio of 50 (imported): 50 (indigenous), after lifting the indigenous material from the Public Sector Undertakings at the Government notified price.

Shortage of Vital drugs

4805. DR. D. VENKATESWARA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the major Drug companies are cutting down the production of vital drugs;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the measures being comtemplated to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c). Drug companies plan the production of various drug items generally depending upon various factors like availability of imported raw materials, economic viability aspects, drug obsolescence, introduction of better and more patent drugs, corporate plans of the company, market demand, etc. Government, however, keeps a watch and takes corrective actions where ever necessary so as to ensure that their are no shortages of vital drugs.

Production and Marketing of Caprocactam by F.A.C.T.

4806. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total production capacity and the actual production of caprolactum at F.A.C.T. at present;

(b) what are the by-products obtained during the production of Caprolactum;

(c) whether any guidelines have been framed for marketing of Caprolactum and its by-products to the consumers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The installed capacity of Caprolactum plant which went into commercial production on 1st March, 1991 is 50,000 tonnes per annum. In the first year, the production is expected to be 60% of the capacity.

(b) The by-products/co-products are:

(1) Nitric Acid (55% of HNO3).